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Current Events

[Edited by Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School, Roxbury, Mass., for the territory covered by the Association of New England and the Atlantic States; Daniel W. Lothman, East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Middle States, west to the Mississippi River; Walter Miller, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., for the Southern States; and by Frederick C. Eastman, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, for the territory west of the Mississippi, exclusive of Louisiana and Texas. This department will present everything that is properly news—occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. All news items should be sent to the associate editors named above.]

A CORRECTION

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME, June 25, 1914

To the Editors of the Classical Journal:

MY DEAR SIRS: My attention has been brought to a statement which was printed in the *Classical Journal* of May, 1914, on page 337, to the effect that "postcards showing all manner of Italian views can be obtained by sending the amount one wishes to spend, and a list of the views desired," to myself.

It is with sincere regret that I must ask you kindly to inform your readers that I am unable to satisfy the expectations which this announcement (which appeared without my knowledge) is likely to arouse. I have never engaged systematically in the supplying of postcards or other illustrative material; the two or three individual cases in which I have allowed myself to make an exception have been of the nature of special courtesy.

I need not assure your readers that I sympathize entirely with the desire to add interest to the study of Roman civilization in the schools and colleges of America; I trust that the few who are acquainted with my efforts in this direction will not accuse me of lack of zeal on behalf of the cause. But when your readers realize, first, that my official position in Rome, as attached to a foreign scientific institution, would render it indiscreet, to say the least, for me to engage in an undertaking which to the public might appear commercial in character; and, secondly, that my regular employment as librarian and associate professor of archaeology leaves me no time for other routine work, I am confident that they will appreciate my duty to decline to undertake that specific form of activity which your article suggests.

With sincere regards,

ALBERT W. VAN BUREN

New England

The end of the school year brought an unusual number of presentations of plays taken from the classics. We note the following four from Massachusetts institutions:

Wheaton College.—The students of the Latin department, on May 27, presented Professor Miller's *Dido, the Phoenician Queen*, under the direction of Miss Helen E. Wieand, head of the department. As the play was given out of doors, the setting and arrangement of the scenes were somewhat modified. One of the students as Aurora, in response to the opening Hymn to the Dawn, gave a beautiful sun-dance.

The close of the play was modified by having Dido rush off the stage to commit suicide, and after Anna had retired, speaking her last words, Mercury crossed the stage conducting Dido to the lower world.

The interludes between the acts were filled by the singing of several of Horace' odes, set to music, and by the recitation of "The Lovers' Quarrel," Ode iii. 9, in dialogue.

Radcliffe College.—*Orestes*, a Greek tragedy, in a prologue and two acts, by Richard Le Gallienne, was presented by the Idler Club as the last play of the college year. It was given outdoors, with the steps of Agassiz House and its four huge columns as a setting, representing Agamemnon's palace at Argos. The entrances were draped with black curtains, and the whole effect was classic and artistic. The cast was headed by Mary Morris, 1916, as Orestes; Mary Ellis, 1917, as Electra; Jessie MacDonald, 1918, as Cassandra; Frederica Gilbert, 1914, as Clytemnestra. The costumes were mostly purple and white and were made by the girls themselves. Graduates in large numbers came back to witness the play.

Wellesley College.—The Alpha Kappa Chi Society of Wellesley College gave on Decoration Day a performance of the Greek play, *Medea*. An ideal spot was selected, in the natural amphitheater on the campus, called Stone Hall Hollow. One of the features of the play was the Greek chorus of fifteen girls, under the leadership of Miss Lucretia B. Travers, of Trenton, New Jersey. The play was coached by Miss Malvina Bennett, of the department of elocution.

Groton School.—The boys of the sixth form gave a performance of the *Phormio* of Terence, in the school gymnasium, on the evening of May 20, under the direction of the Latin faculty of the school.

Ohio

South High School, Columbus.—On Friday, May 15, the boys of the Latin department presented Miss Paxson's Latin play, *The Roman School*. The play was given under the direction of Miss Ida Feil, teacher of Latin in the school. The cost of presentation was little. Each boy made his own tabellae, stilus, scroll, and sandals; and two sheets sewed end to end, decorated with a red stripe, made beautiful and effective togas. Plain benches and boxes covered with white cheesecloth made up the furniture. The song in the play was

changed to *Lepus parvulus*, and the gymnastic exercises were imitations of the classical statues and sports.

After the play a member of the audience asked whether the young *magister* was the teacher of Latin in the school, as he conducted himself with such dignity. Another declared that he must be a native Italian for he spoke the Latin with such fluency. The girls, too, helped. One girl in Roman costume entertained the audience before the play with Italian airs on the victrola. Two girls, also in Roman costume, passed the programs. The audience was enthusiastic in its praise, and many declared it the best school entertainment they had ever seen.

Indiana

The Harold W. Johnston Memorial Fund.—The committee charged with the work of raising money for the establishment of memorials at Indiana University and Illinois College to the late Professor Harold W. Johnston makes the following report: To date, the sum of \$1552.65 has been subscribed. The expenses of the committee cannot be determined exactly at present, but will be approximately \$150.00. The amounts contributed by the friends of the two institutions have more or less automatically determined the forms of the memorials. The subscribers connected with Indiana University prefer to erect a memorial tablet in one of the University buildings, and their subscriptions are sufficient for that purpose. President William Lowe Bryan has appointed as a committee to supervise the designing and placing of the tablet Professor Lillian Gay Berry, Professor Guido H. Stempel, and Registrar John W. Cravens. The Illinois College friends of Professor Johnston have directed their efforts to the establishment of a book fund, the income from which will be expended in the purchase of books for the department of classical languages.

Following the committee's report is a list of over 150 contributors to the fund.

Illinois

Oak Park High School.—Miss Frances E. Sabin, for many years head of the Latin department of the Oak Park High School, has been appointed assistant professor of Latin in the University of Wisconsin. She will have charge of the training of Latin teachers and of the Latin department in the University High School. Miss Sabin expects also to conduct institute work in the state.

The University of Chicago.—According to the report on the results of the prize scholarship examinations held at the University, April 17, three hundred and fourteen students from the Senior classes of schools co-operating with the University took part in these examinations, distributed as follows: American History 37, Botany 11, English 39, French 17, Effective Reading 23, German 57, Latin 43, Mathematics 37, Physics 20, Extempore Speaking 30.

The prize-winners in the Latin group were as follows: Thomas W. Findlay, Deerfield-Shields High School, and Florence V. Lamb, Lake High School.

Honorable mention was awarded to Elmer Vliet, Joliet High School, Bernard Portis, Lake High School, Thomas Kern, Hyde Park High School, Victor Lauer, Joliet High School.

Chicago.—The charter membership meeting of the Chicago Classical Club was held on May 9, with fifty members present.

Professor James H. Breasted's address on "Egypt and the Mediterranean World" was most excellent and much appreciated. After a number of personal incidents and anecdotes, Professor Breasted urged that: (1) We should not be satisfied with Greek and Roman culture as we find it, but should rather search for the origins of that culture and the contributions thereto from these various sources. (2) The Latin and Greek world was not a whole, but formed parts of the greater whole which consisted of the Mediterranean world. The development of this world was due to the interplay of forces emanating primarily from the Orient, and especially Egypt, with the rude beginnings on the north. (3) Therefore the classical world which to the narrower student stands by itself as the ancient world, is itself a result, a climax, a sort of consummation of a still more ancient world of civilizations, and should be taken from that standpoint. (4) Then also classicists and orientalists should not feel antagonistic toward each other, but should consider that they are on the same side, should make common cause and present a common front against antagonistic forces in modern education.

The president of the club, Professor Scott, announced that he expects to have Mr. Walter Leaf with us in November.

Wisconsin

The Latin League of Wisconsin Colleges is among corporations *sui generis*. It dates back in its origin to the spring of 1908, when a circular letter was sent out by the Latin department of Lawrence College to the Latin departments of the other colleges of the state, setting forth the desirability of forming an organization the immediate purpose of which should be the holding of an annual examination contest with the awarding of prizes, medals, and the like. The replies received were almost unanimously of the opinion that the idea was "chimerical" and "impossible of realization." In spite of obstacles, however, an organization was finally effected and in March, 1910, articles of incorporation were filed with the secretary of state at Madison, and a charter was granted under the laws of Wisconsin. The incorporators were the representatives of the Latin departments of Beloit, Carroll, Lawrence, Milton, Milwaukee-Downer, and Ripon. The Regents of the University of Wisconsin upon request kindly consented to become trustee of the endowment fund that the corporation proposed to raise.

As the result of a vigorous campaign for funds the league is now able to offer, besides three medals and a trophy cup, a prize of \$250, called the "Lois G. Kirchner Latin Memorial Prize," so named by Mr. Fred Felix Wettengel of Appleton, the chief donor to the endowment fund, in honor of his sister. A

canvass for the endowment of a second prize of \$150 has been recently undertaken. The sum of \$3,000 is desired.

The Annis Wilson trophy cup was presented to the league by Elizabeth Wilson, a graduate of Lawrence College, now national secretary of the Y.W.C.A., and was named by her in honor of her sister who died while a Junior at Lawrence. The three league medals are fully endowed and are of gold, silver, and bronze respectively. They bear the legend, *Amat Victoria curam.*

The first annual contest of the league was held in the spring of 1913. Professor M. S. Slaughter of the University of Wisconsin conducted the examination. In this initial event Milwaukee-Downer College carried off the \$250 prize and the medals, while Lawrence College won the Annis Wilson trophy cup.

The second annual "meet" was held under the auspices of The Latin League at Grafton Hall, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, May 8, 1914. The contest, as usual, was in the form of an examination in two sessions. The first test was in the writing of Latin and lasted an hour and a half; the second was in the translating at sight from Latin prose and poetry and lasted two and a half hours. Professor Gordon J. Laing of the University of Chicago was chairman of the committee of examination and has announced the following awards: Kirchner prize of \$250, Elsie Kopplin of Lawrence; gold medal, Elsie Kopplin of Lawrence; silver medal, Henry Ackley of Carroll; bronze medal, Jennie Kinne of Milwaukee-Downer; first honorable mention, Bertha Morse of Lawrence; second honorable mention, Marjorie Bennett of Carroll.

To award the Annis Wilson trophy cup, the grades of the best three from each college are taken and the trio that has the highest total wins the cup for the college they represent. As Beloit, Milton, and Ripon had each only two candidates in the contest, they practically were out of the race for the cup. For the other three colleges the score stood as follows: Milwaukee-Downer College, 203 points; Carroll College, 205; Lawrence College, 220 points. The cup therefore stays at Lawrence another year. The trio that won the cup for Lawrence consists of Misses Elsie Kopplin, Bertha Morse, and Hannah Benyas.

Miss Elsie Kopplin is the daughter of a German Methodist clergyman, formerly stationed in Appleton but at present assigned to a church in Green Bay. Miss Kopplin graduated from the Appleton high school; after teaching one or two years she entered Lawrence, where she won in her Freshman year the Lawrence scholarship of \$100. She is at present a Junior in Lawrence and has the distinction of being the only Junior elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Tennessee

Vanderbilt University.—Professor H. C. Tolman, Ph.D., S.T.D., LL.D., professor of Greek, was elected by the Board of Trustees at their June meeting dean of the academic department. It will be remembered that Professor

Tolman last year declined the presidency of Hobart College in order to continue his work at Vanderbilt where he had taught for twenty years.

Kansas

Emporia, Kansas State Normal School.—The Normal Latin Club gave a very creditable presentation of *A Roman Wedding* on May 22 to a surprised and delighted audience.

Arkansas

Hendrix College.—Professor G. A. Simmons writes:

I make it a practice every year to entertain each of my classes at dinner or in an informal fashion with a semi-social program of classic flavor more or less. The sub-freshman class in Vergil seemed to enjoy an occasion of this sort very much last week. First a card bearing the name of a Vergilian character was pinned upon the back of each and he was made to guess who he was from the remarks the others would make about him. Then they tried the *Sortes Vergilianae* by drawing and reading quotations from an urn. Then I gave them an illustrated talk on the "Wanderings of Aeneas, from Troy to Cumae." The class had nearly finished the sixth book.

A few days later my Freshmen spent an evening taking an imaginary college course, in which the four years were represented by contests involving more or less a knowledge of Latin and ancient times; e.g., in freshman year it was required of each to make a Latin sentence from his initials; the reading of these caused no little mirth. Sophomore year was a science course, for which pictures of flowers were hung about the room, their names to be given (in Latin if possible). The Juniors had questions in ancient history and mythology, as "Of whom are you reminded by a vetch pea?" "By a big stick?" The Seniors had a course in Bible, in which Cyrus, Augustus, etc., were brought in along with Hebrew characters. The grading of these contests was in itself entertaining. After refreshments were served tiny diplomas written in Latin, certifying to the completion of the course and dubbing the holder with the degree of *successus baccalaureus*, were awarded. The diplomas were made on a mimeograph.

I find that these social features add some interest and perhaps help to hold some of the weaker ones and give incentive to greater effort. They get a little different view of classics from that of the classroom; and we get to know each other better. I have written all this, thinking some part of it might be found suggestive to others. I frequently look over my file of the *Journal* for just such features, plans, and programs.

Little Rock High School.—Mr. Alvin Good sends in the following:

Although the four teachers of the Latin department of the Little Rock High School were in the school for the first year, they soon found that something ought to be done to arouse and stimulate interest in Latin. As in so many other places, only about one-half of the pupils are studying Latin, and most of these because they wanted it for entrance credits, not because they thought there was any value in the study of Latin itself. About the middle of the year we decided to have Miss Sabin's exhibit, and an evening program, consisting of a Latin play and a drill for girls. We gave the program in the evening, the public being invited, and, following the program, gave them an opportunity to see the exhibit. We sent a special invitation to the eighth-grade pupils of the city.

Miss Mignonette Spilman, one of the teachers, took charge of the preparation of the exhibit. With the help of a committee made up of one member from each of the Latin classes, eighteen in number, the exhibit was prepared in about five weeks. The working force was augmented as interest and ability were discovered in other pupils and as the needs of the work demanded. At the meetings of the committee, definite assignments were made for gathering material and preparing it for the cards. It was our purpose to have the exhibit represent the work of as many Latin pupils as possible, and with hardly an exception the boys and girls responded heartily when called upon. Perhaps the most serious problem in the preparation of the exhibit was to find pupils who could use the rubber stamps with satisfactory results. After some practice a number were able to print with a reasonable amount of speed as well as accuracy and neatness. We first attempted to hang the posters from wires with small Dennison hooks. This we found unsatisfactory on account of the unstable character of the hooks and the sagging of the wires. We found it much more satisfactory to fasten the cards by thumb tacks to narrow strips of wood which were suspended from the molding by wires.

There is no doubt that the interest displayed by both the pupils and the parents has amply rewarded the effort necessary to produce the exhibit. As long as the exhibit was hanging, at almost any time pupils could be found studying it. It is, of course, considered incomplete and will be added to as time goes on.

Both the teacher, Miss Hazel Murray, and the pupils found the preparation of the Latin play, *A Roman School*, thoroughly enjoyable. With one exception the parts are not hard and were quickly learned. The exception is the part of the teacher which, however, was acceptably filled by a Junior who was taking Caesar. The majority of the cast were Freshmen. Six complete rehearsals were held. The greatest difficulty was with the pronunciation but this was for the most part overcome by frequent individual rehearsals.

The increased familiarity of the boys with Latin usage has been noticeable. They learned their cues with surprising readiness. Even the beginning Freshmen soon came to know the meaning of what was being said; and not only that, but to repeat verbatim many sections of the play, particularly the recitations. The common use of Latin phrases, some from the play, some more original, has been gratifying and in some cases decidedly amusing.

The Vestal Virgin Drill was given by nine girls chosen from the various classes, with respect to natural ability and size. Some others were chosen who had other qualifications because we wanted to arouse their interest in Latin. Miss Bessie Evans, of the Latin department, had the drill in charge, but the training was mostly done by the director of physical training for girls. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the work, most of them making their costumes, which were simple. It took many rehearsals to get the girls to move in unison with the music. The result, however, was worth the effort, as anyone can tell who has ever seen a group of girls in marches and postures holding lighted candles.

The attendance and attention during the program were all that could be desired. The expense was borne by contributions from the pupils of the Latin department, each of whom gladly contributed a little.